

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 4-6, 8, 10-12, 14-34, 43-69, 72-85, and 87-94 are in original form.

Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 13, 38, 41-42, 71, and 86 were previously amended.

Claims 2, 35-37, 39-40, 70, and 95-100 have been canceled.

Thus, claims 1, 3-34, 38, 41-69, and 71-94 are currently pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 68, 69, 82, and 83 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Rejections under 35 USC § 103

Claims 7-12, 21, 23, 24, 51-62, 64, 71, 72, 85, 86, and 89-93 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Cooke* (US 2004/0231845) in view of *Grigsby* (US 2005/0056425). Pursuant to 35 USC § 103(c), Applicants provide the following statement of common ownership to remove *Grigsby* as a reference:

Application No. 10/803,689 (the present application) and the prior art reference *Grigsby* (US 2005/0056425) were, at the time of the invention of Application No. 10/803,689 was made, owned by Halliburton Energy Services, Inc.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 7-12, 21, 23, 24, 51-62, 64, 71, 72, 85, 86, and 89-93 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 13-17, 43, and 44 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Cooke* (US 2004/0231845) in view of *Munoz* (US 7,036,587). Pursuant to 35 USC § 103(c), Applicants provide the following statement of common ownership to remove *Munoz* as a reference:

Application No. 10/803,689 (the present application) and the prior art reference *Munoz* (US 7,036,587) were, at the time of the invention of Application No. 10/803,689 was made, owned by Halliburton Energy Services, Inc.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 13-17, 43, and 44 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 25-31, 63, 73-81, 84, 87, and 94 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Cooke* (US 2004/0231845) in view of *Grigsby* (US 2005/0056425) and in further view of *Owens* (US 5,607,017). Pursuant to 35 USC § 103(c), Applicants provide the following statement of common ownership to remove *Grigsby* as a reference:

Application No. 10/803,689 (the present application) and the prior art reference *Grigsby* (US 2005/0056425) were, at the time of the invention of Application No. 10/803,689 was made, owned by Halliburton Energy Services, Inc.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 25-31, 63, 73-81, 84, 87, and 94 are now in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 3-6, 11, 18-20, 22, 32-34, 38, 41, 42, and 45-50 stand rejected under 35 § USC 102(e) as being anticipated by *Cooke*. Applicants respectfully traverse the anticipation rejections on the basis of *Cooke*. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully request an indication of allowable subject matter in response to the previous discussion of the 103 rejections, at which time Applicants intend to make appropriate claim amendments to overcome the 102 rejection over *Cooke* based upon such allowable subject matter. Such action is necessitated by the substantial increase in fees for independent claims and the fact that such fees are non-refundable should the Examiner elect to search for and apply new prior art after Applicants have amended the claims.

Double Patenting

Applicants provide herewith a terminal disclaimer to overcome the double patenting rejection over U.S. 7,093,664.

CONCLUSION

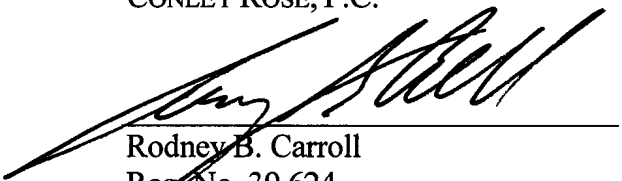
Consideration of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the application, and withdrawal of the rejections and objections is respectfully requested by the Applicants. No new matter is introduced by way of the amendment. It is believed that each ground of rejection raised in the Office Action dated January 10, 2007 has been fully addressed. If any fee is due as a result of the filing of this paper, please appropriately charge such fee to Deposit Account Number 50-1515 of Conley Rose, P.C., Texas. If a petition for extension of time is necessary in order for this paper to be deemed timely filed, please consider this a petition therefore.

If a telephone conference would facilitate the resolution of any issue or expedite the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
CONLEY ROSE, P.C.

Date: _____

4-10-07


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